

## British Fusion Food Festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 3rd British Fusion Food Festival begins at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel today. The four-day festival will celebrate the success of the Bengali community in the curry industry in Britain.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir will be present at the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest.

Curry Life Magazine and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel have jointly organised the festival sponsored by Channel S, Seamark, Red Ford, Nandan, Aerolex UK Ltd, Air Aliyah, Partex Group, Bangla Beer and Al Islah Cash and Carry.

Four British Bangladeshi chefs selected through a competition will take part in the festival. They are Partha Mitra, executive chef of Bengal Dynasty at Flintshire, Jamal-Uddin Ahmed of Shozna Indian Cuisine, Rochester, Oli Khan of Surma Tandoori, Hertfordshire, and Syed Zohorul Islam of The Capital, County Durham.

The festival will help strengthen trade relationships between Britain and Bangladesh, said Festival Director Syed Belal Hossain at a press conference yesterday.

At present, about 1.5 lakh Bangladeshis working in 12,000 restaurants are directly involved in the curry industry in Britain. The British fusion food is very popular there and has changed the food habit of the British, he added.

Director (Sales and Marketing) of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Mahfuzur Rahman, Chief Chef Greg Morgan, Chief Editor of Curry Life Magazine Syed Nahas Pasha and Food Hygiene Expert Shamsul Islam were also present at the press conference.

The festival will remain open from 7:00pm to 10:00pm daily until August 29. Entry fee is Tk 1600 per person.

## Two commit suicide, one electrocuted in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people committed suicide in the port city yesterday while one was electrocuted in the district here on Thursday night.

According to witnesses and police, one youth identified as Md Belal, 26, apparently committed suicide hanging himself from a tree on the footpath in front of the city's Nasirabad Government Boys High School some time in the early hours of yesterday.

Khulshi Police Station recovered the body of the victim at around 9:00am.

Meanwhile, the relatives of Belal, son of Khalilur Rahman of Dhebarparr Kancha Bazar area, suspect that it might have been a planned murder.

In another incident, Abdul Quader, 32, took poison following a family feud at his house at Sholoshahar at around 1:00am.

Quader, son of Md Shamsud Doha of South Sholoshahar, was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

In the other incident, Abdur Rahim, 27, a worker of a decorating firm, got electrocuted while decorating a house at Kanchan Nagar area under Chandanaish upazila in the district at around 9:00pm on Thursday.

Rahim was the son of Md Juna Mia of the same Kanchan Nagar.



Swadhin Bangla Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding realisation of tripartite agreement and fixing of minimum wage at Tk 3000.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'August 21 grenade attack aimed at eliminating politics of emancipation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

August 21 grenade attack was aimed at eliminating the politics of emancipation of common people by killing all front-line Awami League (AL) leaders, said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil at a discussion yesterday.

"The communal forces, defeated in 1971, became united during the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government and carried out the attack in 2004," he said.

Jalil, also the coordinator of 14-party opposition combine, was speaking at a memorial discussion marking the second death anniversary of AL leader Ivy Rahman at the

National Press Club in the city.

He said from the activities of about 500 law enforcers present at the spot during the grenade attack, it is clear that the government was involved in the killings.

Jalil said to confuse the common people the government is propagating that some foreign power is involved in this attack.

"If so, it is the government's duty to identify that foreign power," he added.

"We won't demand trial of the killers from the government," he said, asking, "What is the use of seeking justice for murder from the killers?" Jalil said for establishing justice in

the society there is no alternative to a pro-people government and that is why the elections must be free and fair.

"We have to foil all conspiracies of the vested quarters centering the upcoming election," he added.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to opposition leader and AL chief, said the best way to pay tribute to Ivy Rahman and 23 other victims who died in the attack is to ensuring trial of their killers.

"We have to ensure emancipation of common people for which they sacrificed their lives," he added.

AL Presidium Member Zillur

Rahman, also the husband of Ivy Rahman, said experts from different international organisations came here to investigate the matter but due to non-cooperation of the government they went back.

"It is difficult to believe that such an attack could take place in the hub of the city in broad daylight without the patronisation of the government," he said.

Convener of Ivy Rahman Parishad Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique chaired the discussion where the victims of the attack and other AL leaders also spoke.

## 'Poet Shamsur twinkling star of Bangla literature'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday said that Shamsur Rahman was a twinkling star of Bangla Literature and his contribution to literature and journalism is unquestionable and immeasurable.

He also fought against Pakistan with his mighty pen, they added.

Shamsur Rahman Nagorik Shokshova Committee organised the programme at DC Hill premises.

Udichi members sang a song 'Noyon Sammukhe Tumi Nai, Hridoyer Majkhane Niecho Je Thai' at the beginning of the programme.

The discussion was chaired by eminent social scientist Dr Anupam Sen while poet Syed Shamsul Haq, Dr Anisuzzaman, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Dr Mahbulul Hoque, Dr Moniruzzaman, Resident Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Abul Momen, poet Swapan Sen and poet Arun Das Gupta were also present.



Kobi Sangsad organises a discussion at the Beauty Boarding at Bangla Bazar in the city yesterday to pay tribute to poet Shamsur Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visits ailing former mayor Mohammad Hanif at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday.

## Hasina visits ailing Hanif

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited ailing party leader Mohammad Hanif at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday and enquired about his condition.

Hanif, president of Dhaka city AL and former mayor of Dhaka, has been suffering from heart ailment. He returned home on Thursday after six months' treatment in Bangkok and was admitted to the Apollo Hospitals.

Hasina, accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana, spent some time at the hospital and

prayed for his early recovery.

Talking to reporters, Hasina said Hanif was among her party leaders who protected her by making a human shield during the August 21 grenade attacks on an AL rally. Hanif suffered innumerable splinter injuries but could not receive proper treatment.

The opposition leader said although two years have elapsed since the attack, no investigation was conducted and no perpetrator was brought to book.

She said time would come when the August 21 grenade attackers would be prosecuted.

## Three get life for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Speedy Trial Tribunal in Khulna on Thursday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for killing a Union Parishad chairman in 2004.

Judge Abdu Samad also fined the convicts - Alam Molla, Feroze Khan and Jamal Molla - Tk 50,000 each. If they fail to pay, they would have to suffer three years' more imprisonment. Alam was tried in absentia.

The tribunal, however, acquitted six other accused.

According to the prosecution, Shikder Mohammad Chand Mian, chairman of Shachiadad Union Parishad was gunned down on January 14 in 2004.